TIMES-VIRGINIAN

A LIVELY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER AT HISTORIC APPOMATTOX CO

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Publication day to change next week

Beginning next week, the **Times-Virginian's** day of publication will be changed permanently from Thursday to Wednesday each week.

The move is being made in an effort to better serve the readers and advertisers in Appomattox County.

The newspaper, which is currently printed in Bowling Green, Va., will as of next week be printed at the Farmville Herald in Farmville.

The new day of publication will necessitate a change in deadlines for news and advertising copy. All news, classified advertising, and display advertising copy must be in the **Times-Virginian** office on Court Street by 3 p.m. Monday to appear in Wednesday's paper.

The paper's deadline in Farmville is noon Tuesday, so persons with news or advertising copy are encouraged to get their information to the **Times-Virginian** office as soon as possible, preferrably on Friday.

The Wednesday publication date will enable mail subscribers to get their papers a day earlier, and will make the paper available on certain newsstands Tuesday night.

TOWN EMPLOYEE JOHNNY Harris and Town Manager Bill Britton examine the well drilled behind Appomattox Elementary School, which is yielding in excess of 200 gallons of water per minute. Harris and fellow worker Harold Nash used a divining rod to locate the drilling site.

Using divining rod

Town finds new water

By BILL SHERROD

"When you're looking for water, you have to use every resource available."

That's how Town Manager Bill Britton explains the mystical side of last week's municipal water-well strike in Appomattox.

High technology yielded to down-home tradition, as on Monday Fred Jones' well-drilling rig struck a bonus water vein on a drilling site identified by town workers Harold Nash and Johnny Harris -- who used divining rods to find the water.

Some were skeptical as to the validity of the claim, but Britton confirmed the fact that a divining rod, or "water witch" -- a forked stick which, legend holds, will dip downward when its holder walks over water -- was used to find the exact drilling site.

Discovery of the well, which is located directly behind Appomattox Elementary School off Route 460, is welcome relief for the town. "We currently have four wells in operation, but need an additional 90 gallons per minute to meet the minimum standards set up by the state Health Department," according to Britton.

The new well, which yielded 100 gallons per minute as a six-inch test well, was reamed out to eight inches and is currently yielding in excess of 200 gallons per minute, Britton says.

"Now we'll conduct the pump tests, chemical tests, and other tests required by the state. But at this time, everything looks favorable for our chances of putting the well to use," Britton says.

Small amounts of water were found within 30 feet of the ground surface when the drilling began. Substantial amounts of water were found at 215 feet, and the well was drilled to 255 feet for water storage purposes.

Britton says initial tests indicate that the iron content in water from this well is favorable, and in addition, the well's proximity to an existing water line -- the two are 400-500 feet apart -- will reduce the costs of hooking the well to the town's water system.

The town has previously drilled two test wells, both on sites identified by state geologists and both of which came up dry.

For rabies

Dog shots set

Rabies vaccinations for dogs in Appomattox County this year will be held Jan. 15 and Jan. 30, according to Appomattox veterinarian Bill Burger.

On Thursday, Jan. 15, the shots will be offered from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Appomattox Animal Hospital on Route 460 West, Appomattox.

Friday, Jan. 30, the shots will be offered at three different times and locations. From 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., the shots will be given at Appomattox Animal Hospital. From 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., the shots will be available at the Pamplin Fire House. From 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., the shots will be given at Jimmy's Grocery Store, in Red House.

Burger notes that state law requires a certificate of vaccination before any dog can be licensed.

There is a $3 fee for vaccination of each dog.

First baby of 1981

Chandler babe wins

Don and Brenda Chandler and their baby boy, Aaron Kenneth, were on Monday declared the winners of the **Times-Virginian** "First Baby of 1981" contest.

Don affirmed the honor Monday before the noon deadline with a written note from the doctor who delivered Aaron Kenneth Sunday, Jan. 4, at 2 p.m. in Lynchburg's Virginia Baptist Hospital.

Aaron Kenneth, whose parents live in Appomattox, weighed eight pounds, 11 ounces at birth. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John Chandler, and maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Nash.

Paternal great-grandmothers are Emeline Chandler and Catheryn Ramsey, and maternal great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Willie Smith and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Nash.

There was great drama surrounding the Chandler baby's victorious birth. "The doctor originally told us that the baby should be expected on Nov. 29," says Don. "Then he changed it to Dec. 15. Then he changed it again to late December. We were expecting a Christmas baby, then a New Year's baby. It (the waiting period) just stretched out, then kept on going and going."

Then, there was a race to the finish in the delivery room between Brenda and Vicky Austin, wife of **Times-Virginian** staffer Allen Austin. "We (Austin and Chandler) sat there in the waiting room, arguing over whose baby would come first. He kept saying mine would, and I kept saying his would."

Chandler added that Austin kept him informed on the progress of the race. "Allen had taken the LeMass class, and would go into the deliver room, where Vicky and Brenda were near each other. He could overhear what Brenda's doctors were saying, and would report back to me when he came into the waiting room."

But at 2 p.m., Aaron Scott made his debut before the Austin child, Steven Allen, the second baby boy born to the Austins.

Aaron Kenneth is the Chandlers' first child. "We were hoping for a boy," said an obviously pleased Don on Monday.

Chandler expressed his thanks to "all our family and friends, who have been a great help to us during these trying periods." He also expressed his tahnks to the 20 merchants who provided gifts for the first baby's family. They include Appomattox Electronics, Webb Tire Company, The Carpet House, White's Auto Store, The Clothesline, Photo Gallery, Stephen's Fashions, Appomattox Rexall Drugstore, Judy's Beauty Salon, Appomattox Hardware Co., Inc., Burger King, Farmers National Bank, Superior Florist and Greenhouses, Ben Franklin, American Federal, Appomattox Service Station, Kings Supermarket, Wilbun's Supermarket, Wilkes' Jewelers, and Appomattox Office Supply.

Asked if he and Brenda are planning for more additions to their family, Don said, "Yes, eventually," But he added with a smile, "As soon as I saw Brenda after the baby was born, she said, "I never want to go through this again."

'The Inspirations'

Concert slated here

The Inspirations, a nationally popular gospel singing group, will again perform in Appomattox this year, with the concert set for Jan. 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the Appomattox County High School auditorium.

The eight-man group, which appears weekly on the nationally syndicated television show, "Gospel Singing Jubilee," has received numerous awards and accolades since its formation in 1964. The Inspirations were the subject of a ten-minute national news documentary by CBS in 1970.

The group has been voted the nation's number-one gospel singing group five of the past nine years, and the individual members of the Inspirations have each received numerous awards for their musical excellence.

The group consists of Martin Cook pianist; Jack Laws, bass guitar; Roger Fortner, lead guitar; Big Mike Holcomb, bass; Eddie Deitz, baritone; Troy Burns, lead; Archie Watkins, tenor, and Dale Jones, steel guitar.

Tickets for the concert are on sale at the Diary Queen, Appomattox Drug Store, and the Village Market on Route 24, or may be obtained by phoning Sam Carter at 352-8919.

DOT DAVIDSON, associated with the March of Dimes for the past 26 years and local chapter chairman for the past 12, will again this year assume the duties of the Appomattox County March of Dimes chairman. The March of Dimes Telerama will be broadcast in Central Virginia Jan. 17 on Lynchburg television station WSET-TV 13.

Grrrr...

County man trains attack dogs

By FRANCES H. PAULETTE

Sampson is big, good-looking and loves attention, but that's not all.....

"He's a loaded shotgun," said Roy Thompson as he talked about the big Doberman he acquired in 1976 as a stud dog.

Though Sampson stood quite still to have his ears scratched and even nuzzled a bit closer for more attention, he can be a vicious dog. Just when does this change from a big, lovable, pet to attack dog take place? At his master's command. Sampson is a highly trained attack dog.

Sampson, who is five years old, weighs approximately one hundred pounds and moves so quickly it is almost unbelievable.

Contrary to what a lot of people believe, an attack dog should not be a mean dog.

"A dog of good disposition that is level headed is much easier to teach and train than a dog with a mean disposition," said Roy as he explained how he had trained Sampson.

"First of all, I teach a dog to obey; to heel, to lay down, etc. I use both voice commands and hand signals. Once he has completed obedience training, then comes the attack training."

Thompson, a truck driver, has recently been confined to his home because of an injury and during that period, spent a lot of time working with Sampson.

Thompson gave Sampson all of his training except his off-leash attack training. While Sampson was receiving this training in Massachusets, Roy was busily engaged in learning how to train dogs in this area of work.

"I have one rule," said Roy," I never strike a dog but correct him with a firm 'No' and then repeat the command. If the second command isn't obeyed, I resort to a choke collar as a means of

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Father Darkleaf

By CALVIN ROBINSON

For today's writing, the first problem was to thaw out the typewriter. At 7 a.m. (Monday) the porch thermometer was on 7. Coldest morning since Dec. 21, my birthday. A year ago on same date, the reading was 28. I have no gadget for measuring the chill factor on Martha Street, but I have on two sweaters. Guess I got cold watching the Cleveland Browns and Oakland Raider pro football game on TV. The players wore gloves in zero weather, made rougher by winds.

* * *

It's back to the books for our schools, after the big holiday lay-off. Nice to see school buses running again. Betcha the most asked question was, "What did you get for Christmas?" Or maybe, "Guess what I got for Christmas."

* * *

Have managed to keep smallbird seed in my windowside feeder and winter weather has brought lots of customers. The Red Cardinal is my favorite. A bird with class. The tiny chickadees are dainty and cute. But many sparrows are ill-mannered and not very elegant, bickering and tense.

* * *

Still have not my flower bulbs planted. But a new seed and nursery catalog has arrived and a quick inspection shows that inflation has hit prices for this Spring's planting.

* * *

Our prayers are with our President-Elect and we wish him well. So many problems, and answers that time will approve are hard to come by. It is not fair to add to his problems, but do wish someone would get the Washington Redskins going again.

* * *

At hand is a copy of a new book on historic Appomattox Court House, Handbook 109, issued by the Divison of Publications, National Park Service. Brilliantly illustrated, in color, and with maps, it tells the story of the end of The War Between the States here in 1865 and it would be a valuable addition to every home library. It is for sale at the National Park Service offices at Old Appomattox Court House. Also a nice gift item. I highly recommend it.

* * *

I have never had much association with bulldogs. Aimed to keep my distance. But the University of Georgia football team, nicknamed The Bulldogs, at season's end is the nation's No. One ranked college football team. They say that in The Peach State the remark is not "When's Jimmy coming home?" but "How About Them Dawgs!" Not the first time Georgia has furnished champs. Remember Tye Cobb and Bobby Jones, for example.

* * *

Found in my note pad, a list of Appomattox town managers. I had seven on my list. Can you name them? The town was incorporated in the late 1920's.

* * *

Thanks to Steve Cawthorne for bringing me a copy of a top-ranked out-of-town newspaper and remembrances from our friends, Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Cawthorne, of Pompano, Fla.

* * *

Prediction for 1981. Many a team or individual who lost will size it up by saying, "We made too many mistakes." Chances are that most of us will make mistakes, but let us strive to hold'em down, especially when driving.

* * *

Thanks for reading and seeya around.

School board meets Mon.

The Appomattox County School Board will meet this Monday (Jan. 12) at 7 p.m. in the school board office, according to Superintendent of Schools Lloyd Walton.

At the meeting, board members will receive a slide-tape presentation on the special education program in Appomattox County.

Board members will also consider a proposed Special Education Six-Year Plan, an annual Vocational Education Plan, and school division six-year plans at the meeting.

DOG TRAINER ROY THOMPSON (at right in attack sleeve) prepares for a demonstration using a dog belonging to Lynn Allen Smith (right). The dog's concentration and instantaneous response to its master's commands are results of its obedience and attack training.

Lions meet tonight

The Appomattox Lions Club will meet tonight (Thursday) at 6:45 p.m. in Maude's Restaurant on Route 460.

Guest speaker for the evening will be Bill Britton, town manager, who will talk about the Anti-Cold Homes Program in Appomattox County.

All club members are urged to attend.